

**REMARKS**

Claims 9, 10, 21, 22, 34, 35 and 38-56 are currently pending, of which claims 38-56 are allowed. Claims 1-8, 11-20, 23-33, 36, 37 and 82-98 have been cancelled.

The Advisory Action dated April 21, 2004 states that Applicant's proposed Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, dated March 22, 2004, will be entered for purposes of appeal. The Advisory Action also states that claims 38-56 are allowed, claims 9-10, 21-22 and 34-35 are objected to, and claims 1-8, 11-20, 23-33, 36, 37 and 82-98 are rejected.

In the final Office Action dated December 22, 2003, claims 9-10, 21-22, and 34-35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however the Office Action stated that claims 9-10, 21-22, and 34-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 7). Accordingly, in Applicant's proposed Amendment dated March 22, 2004, claims 9, 21, and 34 were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10, 22 and 35 depend from, and incorporate all the limitations of, claims 9, 21 and 34, respectively.

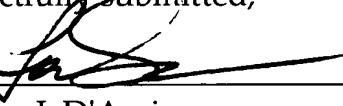
In view of Applicant's Amendment dated March 22, 2004, for at least the foregoing reasons, and because Applicant has complied with the requirements of the final Office Action dated December 22, 2003 in overcoming the objection to claims 9-10, 21-22, and 34-35, Applicant respectfully submits that that claims 9-10, 21-22, and 34-35 are also in condition for allowance. Applicant has also currently cancelled claims 1-8, 11-20, 23-33, 36, 37 and 82-98, although Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in other applications.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that both the Amendment dated March 22, 2004 and the current Amendment contained herein be entered into the record.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371  
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP  
2101 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1526  
(202) 785-9700  
Attorneys for Applicant